



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20161110-00126-ADV (Health Advisory)

RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, and Healthcare providers – Statewide

DATE: Thursday, November 10, 2016

SUBJECT: *Information for Healthcare Providers Regarding Patients at Risk from Contaminated Heater-Cooler Devices Used during Cardiac Surgery*

Dear Colleagues:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified several clusters of *Mycobacterium chimaera* infection associated with the use of Stöckert 3T heater-cooler devices used during open-heart surgery. The reports suggest that aerosolized *M. chimaera* from these devices may rarely lead to severe, life-threatening infections. To date, there are no reported cases of *M. chimera* related to these devices in Mississippi.

As a follow up to the Health Alert Network message issued on October 13, 2016, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is recommending that all primary care providers, cardiologists, infectious disease specialists and cardiothoracic surgeons who take care of cardiac surgery patients before or after their surgery, be aware of the risk and consider nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) as a potential cause of post-operative illness.

- Clinicians should suspect NTM infections among patients who have signs of infection and a history of open-chest cardiac surgery (symptoms may include: night sweats, muscle aches, weight loss, fatigue and unexplained fever)
- Patients with NTM infections following cardiac surgery may present with a variety of clinical manifestations including: endocarditis, surgical site infection, or abscess and bacteremia. Other clinical manifestations could include hepatitis, renal insufficiency, splenomegaly, pancytopenia, and osteomyelitis.
- Infections may take months to cause symptoms.
- Diagnosis can be difficult due to the nonspecific presentation of illness and the slow growing nature of the bacteria.

If signs of infection are present, physicians should consider consulting with an infectious disease specialist and obtain cultures for acid fast bacilli (AFB). Additional specialized testing for *M. chimera* may also be necessary. **NTM is a Class 3 reportable condition in Mississippi requiring notification of MSDH within one week of laboratory finding.**

MSDH has requested that all facilities that have used the Stöckert 3T heater-cooler device take the following actions:

- 1) Notify the MSDH Office of Epidemiology if your facility has used this device (601 576-7725) and ensure that the facility is following current FDA recommendations to minimize patient risk to infections associated with these heater-cooler devices.
<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/UCM520191.htm>
- 2) Notify staff physicians of this potential risk in order to monitor patients with prior open-heart surgery using the Stöckert 3T heater-cooler device.
- 3) Review the facility's microbiology laboratory database and records of surgical procedures for any positive NTM cultures in surgery patients that might indicate a possible case and notify the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Epidemiology (601 576 7725) of any *M. chimaera* infections or other mycobacterial infection associated with open-heart surgery.

Please see the CDC website for additional details and information at
<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/heater-cooler.html>

Regards,
Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20161110-00126-ADV
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Advisory
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00126
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).